FACT SHEET

EPA Region 7

McGraw-Edison Site
Centerville, Iowa

May 1999

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EPA will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 1999, at 7:00 p.m. at the Centerville City Hall, 314 E. Maple, Centerville, Iowa. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to you on the proposed plan.

EPA is asking for comments on the proposed plan. Comments can be made orally or in writing at the public meeting or can be mailed to the address listed below. The 30-day comment period opens May 10, 1999, and closes June 8, 1999.

Written comments (post-marked no later than June 8, 1999), can be sent to:

Diane Huffman
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of External Programs
726 Minnesota Avenue

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing a proposed plan with a new preferred alternative to address ground water contamination at the former McGraw-Edison site. The 13-acre site is located in an industrial park along the east side of Highway 5 near the intersection of Highway 5 and Dewey Road.

EPA will make a decision on how to address the contaminated ground water after reviewing comments received during the public comment period. The decision will be published in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will also include a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

SITE BACKGROUND

McGraw-Edison manufactured toasters and

manufacturing building located at the site, however, elevated concentrations of TCE remain in the soil and ground water.

In 1993, after input from the public, EPA issued a ROD that recommended using soil vapor extraction to clean up TCE-contaminated soil at the site. The ROD also recommended contaminated ground water be pumped out of the ground and treated using ultraviolet catalyzed oxidation. In 1994, after further evaluation, EPA recommended a vacuum enhanced ground water recovery system (VGR) be used to treat contaminated ground water.

NEW PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Recent laboratory experiments and actual remediation of contaminated ground water indicate that a technology known as an iron reactive permeable barrier (IRPB) may achieve the cleanup goals of this project more quickly, efficiently, and cost-effectively than the alternative previously recommended. For this reason, EPA recommends that the IRPB be used to clean up the ground water.

The IRPB is formed by injecting a gel-like substance containing iron filings into the ground in a location to intercept the contaminated ground water. When the ground water contaminated with TCE flows through the IRPB, it reacts with the iron filings and is reduced to two non-toxic products, ethene and ethane. Ground water with lower concentrations of TCE that has already flowed past where the IRPB could be installed, would be allowed to biodegrade and dilute naturally, with no danger to human health and the environment. The estimated cleanup time using the IRPB is ten years and the estimated cost is $938,000.

Cooper Industries is responsible for implementing the remedy selected for the site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA encourages community members to review and comment on the proposed plan for the McGraw-Edison site. A file containing site-related documents, called the Administrative Record File, is available for public review at the following information repositories, during normal business hours:

Fax: 1-913-551-7066
E-mail: huffman.diane@epamail.epa.gov